GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2039
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2001
ISSUE PRICE OF SUGAR, WHEAT AND RICE
DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the present rates of sugar, wheat and rice being sold through Public Distribution System;

(b) present rates of sugar, wheat and rice for people below poverty line through PDS;

(c) whether there are people below poverty line, who cannot buy PDS items at present rates;

(d) whether the Government propose to sell these PDS items to such people free of cost limiting the quantity per person, month-wise;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a) & (b) : The Central Issue Price at which wheat and rice are made available to the State under the Public Distribution System are as follows:-

(Rs. in quintal)

Commodity	Below Poverty Line(BPL)	Above Poverty Line(APL)
Wheat	415	830
Rice (a) Common	565	1087$
(b) Grade `A`	565	1130

$ - Applicable to Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, North-East States, Sikkim and hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh.

In so far as distribution of sugar through PDS is concerned it is supplied at a uniform price of Rs. 13/- per kg. throughout the country.

(c),(d),(e) & (f) : The prices at which sugar, wheat and rice made available to the people below poverty line under TPDS are lower than the open market prices of these commodities. There is no proposal to sell the PDS items free of cost to them.Keeping in view that the purchasing power of the poorest of the poor families is so low that they are not in a position to buy foodgrains round the year even at BPL rates, the Government has launched the Antyodaya Anna Yojana which contemplates identification of one crore poorest of the poor families and providing them with foodgrains @25 kg. per family per month at highly subsidised rates, Rs.2/- a kg. for wheat and Rs.3/- a kg. for rice.